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VIII. "PATRONATI" AS A FORM OF AUXILIARY

WORK AMONG THE EMIGRANTS

During this time, one more form of auxiliary work was begun. The beginning was made by the Italian emigrants. The situation is such, that in a number of countries - in France, in the United States of America, and in almost all the countries of South America there are economic emigrants, that is, people who for economic reasons because of material conditions were forced to leave their country.

The comrades from the former Jewish Ghetto in Tsarist Russia know well what a great percentage of the Jews, not having the possibility to work in Russia, emigrated to America. This example I am citing in order that the cause of emigration should be clear to the comrades.

The same emigration of the Hungarians, Jugo-Slavs and others, takes place in a number of countries. The Italian comrades decided that it is necessary to find a method for embracing this broad mass of economic emigration which is insufficiently prepared politically, in order that it will be possible to approach it with direct political MOPR demands, but which must be first swung into line for our purposes.

And so they organised the so-called "Patronati" which in translation into the English language means "Patronage." But the term "Patronati" has been established as well as our Russian word "Smitchka" in all foreign languages.

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The essence of "Patronati" consists in the fact that one of the MOPR members or in general one of the revolutionary working comrades of a definite nationality, living in the country where there are a large number of economic immigrants of the same nationality, finds the people, which came from any certain individual province. For example - from Lodz. In uniting these comrades he begins to tell them about the terrible conditions of the political prisoners in the Lodz jails. Then it is finally discovered that these immigrants have there some acquaintances.

Hearts are warmed and opened up - and so also are the pocket books.

In order to strengthen this feeling, the comrades are given the right to collect money for those of the political prisoners which are known to the economic immigrants. Confidence is strengthened, they see that the money which they themselves collected, they themselves also send directly to the prisoner in jail.

The next step: the money is divided into two parts. One half goes to the corresponding jail, and the second - to the national organisation of MOPR of the same nationality as the immigrants. Then the percentage is changed - we have 25 per cent and 75 per cent. The first part is given to the MOPR of the country where the immigrants live, and the other 75 per cent is distributed between the national MOPR and the "Patronati".

Further, members of the MOPR are gradually enrolled from the general mass of the economic emigrants, and the distribution of literature begins, etc. In a word - new methods are sought in order to approach ever broader masses.